

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-11 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /050 W

----- 044846

O R 201148Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1002

INFO USUN NEW YORK 481

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0515

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, US, UV, EAID

SUBJECT: VISIT OF VOLTAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REF: A) OUAGADOUGOU 0498 B) STATE 039261

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KABORE RECEIVED ME MORNING FEB 20 AND DISCUSSED VERY CANDIDLY REASONS FOR HIS VISITS TO EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA. MAIN PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP, HE SAID, WAS INSPECTION OF VOLTAN EMBASSIES ABROAD BUT HE WOULD, OF COURSE, HOPE AT THE SAME TIME TO MEET HIS "COUNTERPARTS" IN THE VARIOUS CAPITALS. AFTER OAU MEETING, HE PLANS TO VISIT MOSCOW, BONN, BRUSSELS, PARIS, WASHINGTON, NEW YORK AND OTTAWA BUT NOT NECESSARILY IN THAT ORDER. HE PLANS TO BE IN WASHINGTON MARCH 7 AND TO STAY ABOUT TWO DAYS. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MISS FATIMATA DIALLO AND MARCEL GUIGMA WHO HAS THE TITLE OF COUNSELLOR OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND IS MISS DIALLO'S DEPUTY.

2. KABORE EXPLAINED THAT, SINCE TAKING OVER THE MINISTRY ON FEB 9, HE HAD READ REPORTS FROM THE VARIOUS VOLTAN EMBASSIES AND HAD BEEN SHOCKED TO FIND VERY LITTLE SUBSTANCE IN THEM. MOST OF THEM DEALT WITH PERSONAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS. HE HAD CONCLUDED THAT EITHER THE AMBASSADORS WERE NOT DOING THEIR JOBS, OR THERE WAS LITTLE TO REPORT OF DIRECT INTEREST TO UPPER VOLTA AND, IN THAT CASE, THE EMBASSIES SHOULD BE CLOSED. HE HAD ALSO NOTICED THAT SOME OF THE AMBASSADORS HAD BEEN ABROAD FOR A LONG TIME AND HAD LOST TOUCH WITH THE SITUATION IN UPPER  
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VOLTA. PERHAPS IT WAS TIME TO BRING THEM BACK FOR A TOUR IN OUAGADOUGOU. HE ADDED WITH A SMILE THAT SOME OF THEM HAD

BEEN FRIGHTENED WHEN THEY RECEIVED NEWS OF HIS VISIT, BUT THE FACT WAS THAT HE SIMPLY WANTED TO SEE FOR HIMSELF ON THE SPOT BEFORE MAKING DECISIONS AFFECTING THE AMBASSADORS FUTURE AND PERHAPS THE EMBASSIES.

3. KABORE THEN REFERRED TO THE REQUEST FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE SECRETARY. HE SAID HE REALIZED THAT DR KISSINGER WAS A VERY BUSY MAN AND THAT UPPER VOLTA COULD NOT BE VERY HIGH ON THE LIST OF COUNTRIES AND PROBLEMS WHICH OCCUPIED THE SECRETARY'S TIME. NEVERTHELESS, HE WOULD BE GREATLY HONORED IF THERE WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE SECRETARY AND PERHAPS HAVE A SHORT "TOUR D'HORIZON" WITH HIM. BEING EXPOSED, EVEN IF ONLY FOR A FEW MINUTES, TO DR KISSINGER'S VAST EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD CERTAINLY BE OF TREMENDOUS BENEFIT TO HIM.

4. I CONFIRMED TO KABORE THAT AMB YAGUIBOU HAD REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT FOR HIM WITH THE SECRETARY. I ADDED THAT THE SECRETARY WAS PRESENTLY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THAT I DID NOT KNOW WHETHER HE WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON DURING THE PERIOD MARCH 7-9. KABORE DID NOT PRESS THE MATTER AND SIMPLY REMARKED THAT HE HOPED TO SEE ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE WHOM HE HAD MET PREVIOUSLY IN OUAGADOUGOU.

5. COMMENT: I AM MORE AND MORE IMPRESSED WITH KABORE AND I HOPE THAT A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY CAN BE ARRANGED. THERE WAS NO INDICATION WHATSOEVER DURING OUR CONVERSATION THAT KABORE INTENDS TO FOLLOW UP ON YAGUIBOU'S DISCUSSIONS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE OF JAN 16. I BELIEVE THAT, IF THE QUESTION OF AID COMES UP AT ALL DURING KABORE'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, IT WILL BE IN THE MOST GENERAL TERMS. KABORE HAS NOT HAD A CHANCE TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH UPPER VOLTA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND PLANS. ASSUMING KABORE WILL MEET SOME OF THE TOP OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT, I RECOMMEND THAT THE PROBLEMS OF ANGOLA AND BLOCK VOTING AT THE UN BE STRONGLY EMPHASIZED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM. I BELIEVE HE WILL BE RECEPTIVE TO ARGUMENTS THAT ON ISSUES THAT ARE OF VITAL INTEREST TO THE US BUT OF LITTLE DIRECT CONCERN TO SO CALLED NON ALIGNED AFRICAN COUNTRIES, THE US GOV EXPECTS SUCH COUNTRIES TO REMAIN NON ALIGNED AND NOT SUPPORT OUR ENEMIES.  
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GRAHAM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS, PLANNING MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976OUAGAD00515  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760064-0279  
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**Line Count:** 106  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 OUAGADOUGOU 498, 76 STATE 39261  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VISIT OF VOLTAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EAID, US, UV, XG, XS, (KABORE, ALFRED)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006